AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(original) A content scanning system for electronic documents such as emails comprising:

a)link analyser for identifying hyperlinks in document content;

b)means for causing a content scanner to scan objects referenced by links identified by the link analyser and to determine their acceptability according to predefined rules, the means being operative, when the link is to an object external to the document and is determined by the content analyser to be acceptable, to retrieve the external object and modify the document by replacing the link to the external object by one to a copy of the object stored on a trusted server.

2.(original) A system according to claim 1 wherein the link analyser a) and means b) are operative to recursively process links identified in such external objects.

3.(original) A system according to claim 2 in which only a maximum depth of recursion is permitted and the document is flagged as unacceptable if that limit is reached.

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4.(currently amended) A system according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1 wherein if any linked-to object is determined by the content scanner to be unacceptable the document is flagged or modified to indicate that fact.

5.(original) A method of content-scanning electronic documents such as emails comprising:

a)using a link analyser for identifying hyperlinks in document content;

b)using a content scanner to scan objects referenced by links identified by the link analyser and to determine their acceptability according to predefined rules, the means being operative, when the link is to an object external to the document and is determined by the content analyser to be acceptable, to retrieve the external object and modify the document by replacing the link to the external object by one to a copy of the object stored on a trusted server.

6.(original) A method according to claim 5 wherein the steps a) and b) are used recursively to process links identified in such external objects.

7.(original) A method according to claim 6 in which only a maximum depth of recursion is permitted and the document is flagged as unacceptable if that limit is reached.

8.(currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claim 5 to 7~~claim 5,

wherein if any linked-to object is determined by the content scanner to be unacceptable

the document is flagged or modified to indicate that fact.

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